

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated November 21, 2003, the Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,538,698 (Anderson). Claims 2-5 (and apparently 6-8) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,538,698 (Anderson) and U.S. Patent No. 6,360,056 (Ando).

By the present response, Applicants have canceled claims 1-5 and amended claims 6 and 7 to further clarify the invention. New claims 9-14 are submitted for the Examiner's consideration and do not contain any prohibited new matter. Claims 6-14 remain pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson. Applicants have canceled this claim therefore rendering this rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 2-5 (and apparently 6-8) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson and Ando et al. Applicants have canceled claims 2-5 therefore rendering these rejections moot. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as to remaining pending claims 6-8, and submit that new claims 9-14 are also patentable over the cited references.

Anderson discloses sorting images in an image capture unit to ease browsing access where aspects for locating a desired image from a plurality of images stored

in an image capture unit are described. The method includes sorting the plurality of images and the image capture unit according to a sort criteria and further includes displaying the sorted images as one or more image groups on a display interface of the image capture unit. Additionally included is providing browsing access of the displayed, sorted images by group, wherein locating of a desired image occurs.

Ando et al. discloses an information storage medium capable of recording and playing back still picture information with a first information unit having one still picture information, and a first group unit which is composed of a set of first information units, and has a plurality of pieces of still picture information having different contents. Information is recorded in the first group unit.

Regarding claim 6 and new claims 9 and 13, Applicants submit that neither Anderson nor Ando et al., taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, transferring attribute data and thumbnail image data recorded on a recording medium to a memory when neither recording nor reproduction of the picture data is performed, displaying at least one of the attribute data and the thumbnail image data stored in the memory on a display unit, storing thumbnail data displayed on a display in a thumbnail-image-dedicated area of a memory when a state of displaying thumbnail images is changed into a state of recording or reproducing a picture, or displaying the thumbnail images of the thumbnail from the thumbnail-image-dedicated area on a display when the state of recording or reproducing the picture is changed into the state of displaying the thumbnail images.

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses transferring attribute data and thumbnail image data recorded on random access recording medium to a memory when neither recording nor reproduction of picture data is performed at col. 4, lines 19-28. However, this portion of Anderson merely discloses that once the raw image data is processed, it is stored in a frame buffer for display on a LCD screen and that input buffers and frame buffer are split into two ping-pong buffers to improve the display speed of the digital camera. This is not transferring attribute data and thumbnail image data recorded on a recording medium to a memory when neither recording nor reproduction of the picture data is performed, as recited in the claims of the present application. This portion of Anderson does not disclose or suggest anything related to transferring data recorded on a recording medium to a memory as recited in the claims of the present application. Anderson discloses a method and system for sorting images in a digital camera where image data is received from an imaging device and the image data processed and temporarily stored in DRAM (see col. 4, lines 16-21). This has nothing to do with a thumbnail image to be reproduced from a recording medium, as recited in the claims of the present application.

Moreover, none of the cited references disclose or suggest storing thumbnail data stored on a display in a thumbnail-image-dedicated area of memory when a state of displaying thumbnail images is changed into a state of recording or reproducing a picture or displaying the thumbnail images of the thumbnail data from the thumbnail-image-dedicated area on the display when the state of recording or reproducing the picture is changed into displaying the thumbnail images. The

Examiner admits that Anderson does not disclose these limitations in the claims of the present application but asserts that Ando et al. discloses a thumbnail dedicated storage in Fig. 1, element 1016. However, this portion of Ando et al. merely discloses the data structure of an information recording medium that includes thumbnail objects 1016 where all pieces of thumbnail information used in video information management and search are contained. These portions of Ando et al. do not disclose or suggest anything related to storing thumbnail data displayed on a display into memory when a state is changed into a state of recording or reproducing a picture, or displaying the thumbnail images when the state of recording or reproducing the picture is changed into the state of displaying the thumbnail images, as recited in the claims of the present application.

Regarding claims 7, 8 and new claims 10-12 and 14, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 6, 9 and 13 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding these independent claims. For example, none of the cited references disclose or suggest an area of the attributing data in the thumbnail file being fixed regardless of a quantity of the attributing data.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that neither Anderson nor Ando et al., taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 6-8 and new claims 9-14 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 6-14 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.39435X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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